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QUOTES SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD AS A WAR WEAPON TO STRENGTHEN US AND OUR ALLIES, TO FEED THE PEOPLE LIBERATED BY OUR ARMED FORCES, TO OVERTHROW AND DEFEAT OUR ENEMIES, AND TO MAKE A LASTING PEACE.

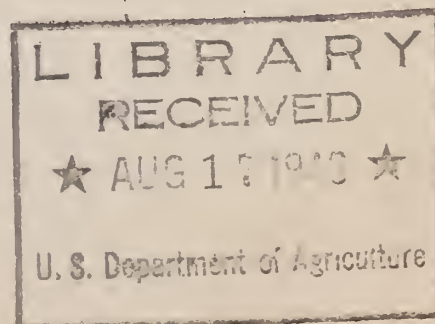
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Contents

Page

Food is Precious, Just as Oil and Steel Are	1
Using Food Positively and Negatively	2
Food as Important as Ammunition	2
American Food on Other Fronts Saves Lives of Thousands of American Boys ..	3
A Boatload of Food Every 3 Days for an A.E.F. of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Million Men	3
Axis Propaganda Ineffective Against Our Milk and Oranges	3
Food Stocks Need to be Built Up Now to Avert Disaster After the War	4
Healthy Home Front Essential to Win the War	4
3-to-6-Year Job After the War	5
Food A Political Instrument	5
Nearly 15% of Our 1943 Food Supply Will Go to Our Allies	6
Germany's Staying Power Depends on Food	6
Each German Army Consumes 100 Head of Slaughtered Livestock A Day	7
Starvation Diet in France	7
An Athens, Greece, Menu	8
Efficiency and Stamina Depend on Food	8
Food is Power	8
Food Stiffens the Will to Win	9
Changing Despair to Hope	9
Pass the Proteins, Up Goes Production	9
Double-Edged Weapon	10
20 Million Meals A Day	10
Food To The Starving	10
Food Ministries Most Important	10
Hunger Brings Despair	10
Hunger Doomed Bataan and Philippines	11
Hunger Can Tyrannize Emotions and Intellect	11
Greatest Vitamin Factory Is The Farm	11
Food Our Fifth Column	12
Ambassador At Peace Table	12
Children Kept in Bed to Prevent Further Loss of Weight	12
Emaciation, A Badge of Honor	12
The Cruelty of Purposefully Starving Human Beings to Death	12
Food Deliveries During the Armistice and Reconstruction Periods of World Wars	13
Other Sources	13
U. S. Farm Crops and the War	13
Food for Freedom Information Handbook--1943	13
1943 Goals Dramatized, with Conservation Factors. INFORMATION Series No. 112	13
Food for Freedom and Crops for Combat	13



Food is Precious

"Food is a weapon in total war -- fully as important in its way as guns or planes or tanks. So are other products of the farm. The long-staple cotton that goes into parachutes, for example; the oils that go into paints for the ships and planes and guns, and the grains that go into alcohol to make explosives also are weapons. * * * *

"We are using food to earn the friendship of the people in liberated areas and to serve as a promise and an encouragement to peoples who are not yet free. * * * *

"Already it is taking a lot of food to fight the war. It is going to take a lot more to win the final victory and win the peace that will follow. In terms of total food supply the United Nations are far stronger than our enemies. But our great food resources are scattered to the ends of the earth-- from Australia and New Zealand to South Africa and the Americas -- and we no longer have food to waste. Food is precious, just as oil and steel are precious. As part of our global strategy, we must produce all we can of every essential farm product; we must divide our supplies wisely and use them carefully. We cannot afford to waste any of them.

"Therefore the United Nations are pooling their food resources and using them where they will do the most good. Canada is sending large shipments of cheese, meats and other foods on the short North Atlantic run to Britain. Australia and New Zealand are providing a great deal of the food to American soldiers stationed in that part of the world. Food from Latin America is going to Britain.

"Every food-producing country among the United Nations is doing its share. Our own share in food strategy, especially at this stage of the war, is large, because we have such great resources for production; and we are on direct ocean lanes to North Africa, to Britain and to the northern ports of Russia. * * * *

"So this year, as never before, the entire Nation is looking to its farmers. Many quarters of the free world are looking to them, too. American farmers are a small group with a great task. Although 60 percent of the world's population are farm people, only 2 percent of that population are American farmers. But that 2 percent have the skill and the energy to make this country the United Nations' greatest arsenal of food and fiber.

"In spite of the handicaps under which American farmers worked last year, the production victory they won was among the major victories of the United Nations in 1942. Free people everywhere can be grateful to the farm families who made that victory possible. * * * *

"This farm mobilization is the first day ever dedicated by a President to the farm people of the Nation. I know that the whole country joins me in a tribute to the work farmers already have done, in a pledge of full support in the difficult task which lies ahead for farmers, and in a prayer for good weather to make farmers' efforts more fruitful.

AUG 17 1943

"Our fighting men and allies and our families here at home can rely on farmers for the food and other farm products that will help to bring victory."
-- President Roosevelt's Farm Mobilization Day message, Jan. 12, 1943.

Using Food Positively and Negatively!

"Food is a weapon in all wars, but in this one more than usual. The enemy has used it as a weapon, negatively--looting the conquered peoples of their food supply and giving back to them just enough to keep them alive--indeed, not always even that much, hoping to break their spirit, and when that endeavor failed, hoping to weaken them physically, so that they could make less resistance to their oppressors. We are using our food supply as a weapon, positively; so distributing it that the American Army and Navy and the American people will be well nourished; yes, and so that the armies of our Allies will be kept strong, too.

"Fortunately, food is a weapon that we have more of than anybody else, but that doesn't mean that we can afford to waste it. We must use it as intelligently and as efficiently as we can, to bring about a speedier victory. * *

"We have the best-fed Army and Navy in the world, and I do not believe there is a single person in the United States who objects to that.

"Some of our food also goes to our Allies; to hear some people talk you would think that most of it is going to our Allies. That is not so. What goes to our Allies is less than what goes to our armed forces; and don't forget that to some extent this exchange of food works both ways. Some British food, and a great deal of Australian food, is supplied by the governments of those countries to our troops who are stationed there. * * * *

"We are sending food to our allies because they are helping us to win the war. They are not helping us to win the war for our sake, any more than we are sending them food for their sake. They are fighting, and we are feeding them, to win a victory over the common enemy of us all. * * * *

"We send food to the Russian army because every German who is killed by a Russian is a German whom we won't have to kill; or, for that matter, a German who will never have a chance to kill American soldiers. The food we send to our Allies is a direct contribution to the winning of the war--to winning it more quickly, and at less cost in American lives." -- Radio address by Elmer Davis on food "Rationing," December 27, 1942.

Food As Important As Ammunition

"'Food and clothing', he (Milton S. Eisenhower) declared, 'are as important as ammunition right now. Wheat, meat, sugar, and clothing simply must be shipped to them (North Africa).' * * *

"'It seems to me that if this country can go in there as an ally and give them what they need instead of taking all they had, as Hitler has done, it will make a profound impression on those people.'

"Disturbances which might result if North African civilians were not clothed and fed, he said, 'might seriously hamper military operations.'"
Milton S. Eisenhower's report on North African situation in Washington Post, December 31, 1942, by Marshall Andrews.

American Food on Other Fronts Saves Lives of Thousands of American Boys

"Our men who landed in North Africa, for instance, had large emergency food supplies. American food has helped win the support of the inhabitants of North Africa. It will help win the support of other people of liberated countries, and thus will save the lives of thousands of American boys. Nearly every pound of food we send to Russia goes direct to the Russian Army. That food saves the lives not only of Russian soldiers but of our American soldiers, who otherwise would face a much stronger German army some time in the future.

The food we are sending to the British is helping to keep their armies strong and to keep their war production going at full speed. General Montgomery's men who chased General Rommel across North Africa ate a lot of American food."--Secretary Wickard, in radio address December 27, 1942: "The Nation's Food Supply - Rationing."

A Boatload of Food Every 3 Days for an A.E.F. of 1½ Million Men

"The President has told us that right now we have about 1½ million men--soldiers, sailors, marines, and coast guards stationed outside the continental United States. It takes a whole shipload of food every 3 days to support an army of this size. A year's supply of food for this army--and remember it's growing all the time--would fill a line of freight cars reaching a distance of about 450 miles--or all the way from Louisville to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania."--M. Clifford Townsend in a speech before the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation at Louisville, Ky., Jan. 14, 1943: "The March of Food."

Axis Propaganda Ineffective Against our Milk and Oranges

"The only foods freely offered for sale in this chief city (Oran) of an agricultural region are salt sprats, date flour, couscous (which is something like hominy grits), fresh dates, and oranges. The dates and oranges are a recent addition; until November 8th, when the Americans landed, every piece of fruit grown here was exported to Germany and Italy, via Genoa or Marseilles, by order of the German and Italian Armistice Commissions. Theoretically, the Neos, because of their Spanish background, are susceptible to Axis propaganda, but they are infinitely more susceptible to the evidence of the oranges. Any appreciable increase in the amount of other foods will make them even more definitely our friends. No counter-propaganda is effective against a can of condensed milk furnished to an expectant mother. *** They will not believe that people who starve them are their friends or that people who bring them food are their enemies.***

"American enlisted men, impulsively and as if by instinct, did the right thing when, upon entering the city after two days of fighting, they gave away their emergency rations to the rickety children and the ragged Arabs they met in the streets. Having done this, the soldiers promptly began to grouse, because they had nothing to eat and wouldn't have until supplies caught up with them. However, the Army suffered no casualties from starvation, and the spendthrift gesture did our cause more good than anything the psychological-warfare sharks had been able to think up."--From The New Yorker, Dec. 19: Letter from Oran", by A.J. Liebling.

Food Stocks Need to be Built Up Now to Avert Disaster After the War

"Food will remain the principal topic of conversation in this country (Britain).*** No one expects this island to go hungry but food won't be plentiful or varied. It will be monotonous but it will be the conversational standby like the weather used to be. Then we ought to talk about food after the war. Food for other people. Do you remember what happened as a result of the last war? About three million people on the continent of Europe died of sheer starvation. Something like seven million died in Russia as a result of the shortage of food. The British continued meat rationing through 1919 and at the beginning of 1920, they had to cut the sugar ration below the wartime level. Rationing will continue in this country for a long time after this war ends. Britain produces now only about three quarters of her food and is already receiving relief under the polite term of Lend-Lease. Britain's soil is wearing out. There will be a great need for fertilizers, both here and on the continent. Here in London there is an Inter-Allied Relief Committee making plans for the future. One of their problems is how to restore to a normal diet about 300 million people and that doesn't include the Russians or the British. It will mean something like 1,250,000 European railway cars of food. An Allied wheat pool of 100 million bushels has been agreed upon. That'll be enough to feed a hungry continent for just about one month. The mechanization of agriculture and the destruction that will be wrought by retreating German armies will make the problem much more difficult this time than it was last. There'll be needed not only food but raw materials, medicine and clothes. It's the opinion of those working on the problem that we must build up stocks now or face disaster after the war. *** The problem will be to restore the physical and mental health of the continent. Somebody must speak with authority in allocating supplies and there is urgently needed the establishment of a high command for relief and reconstruction.*** Priorities for peace are going to be in some ways as important as priorities for war.*** No one knows how much food and crops the Germans will destroy as they fall back but they might usefully be warned that such destruction will mean that we shall reverse against them their own principles and see to it that they will be the last in Europe to be fed.*** The Germans planned carefully how they were to use their guns to get butter.***" -- Edward R. Murrow, CBS-London, January 3, 1943.

Healthy Home Front Essential to Win the War

"So important is the home front of the enemy in its bearing on our military strategy that by its correct or incorrect appraisal the lives of hundreds of thousands of American boys might be saved or lost. And healthy home fronts in the United States are essential to win the war.

"The strategy in global war is not solely a military question. In total war between great nations, the home front is, in many ways, as important as the military front. Wars can be lost or won on the home front.*** Great nations in total war, in addition to military forces, now pit against each other their total resources, the total emotions, the skill, the sacrifice, the work of every adult civilian. It becomes a contest of strength, spirit and endurance of civilians against civilians, as well as between armies and navies.**

"On the home front of all nations, shortages in food and other consumption goods grows progressively due to diversion of manpower. Armed men consume more than when they were civilians.***

"And in this race of exhaustion, the home front of the greatest staying power, of the greatest resources, of the greatest will to endure and fight is a vast support to the military arm. The weak home front becomes a disintegrating liability to its military arm. That was the case of the Allies versus the Central Powers in 1918."--Herbert Hoover in The Washington Daily News, January 11, 1943.

3-To-6 Year Job After the War

"It will take the resources, energy, and foresight of all the United Nations to pool, plan, and distribute food and medical supplies during and after the war.

"First there must be a realistic plan, then an acceptance of the plan as an integral part of the over-all Allied strategy.*** In the producer nations the farmers would know that they were producing, not merely for a war emergency, but for a long period of famine relief as well. This would remove much of the fear of boom and collapse that now slows their expansion.

"The period of famine relief will be long. In its first phase disease will have to be fought as the people are fed. The second phase will call for the rehabilitation of Europe on a self-sustaining basis. Flocks and herds will have to be renewed; this will take from 3 to 6 years. And until the herds are replaced there must be a continuous flow of milk, butter, and other dairy products from the New World to the Old." --Bertram B. Fowler, from the "Cooperative Consumer", published by the Consumers Cooperative Association, of North Kansas City, Mo., July 15, 1942: "Should We Tie in Food with Allied Strategy?"

Food a Political Instrument

"When Goering implied that the Nazis were going to starve all others in order to keep themselves properly fed, he merely admitted what had already happened.***

"The Nazis, soon after their accession to power, discovered food as a political instrument to reward accomplishment, to force cooperation, or to liquidate enemies.***

"Since 1933 all farms have been organized in the German Food Estate, their acreage, equipment, and capacity minutely listed. Production quotas are established for every producer. Besides subsidies, farmers are paid high prices and given additional coupons for manufactured goods. Nevertheless, food supplies from farms have consistently fallen short of estimates, while German farmers are reported to eat far better than they are expected to under their rations.***

"If, to uphold their military potential, they let food supplies fall further, shortages might degenerate into riots behind the lines. But if they divert resources from war to food they will weaken their resistance to the growing offensive power of the United Nations.

"Karl Brandt points out that, contrary to popular German belief, Germany in 1918 was not defeated by hunger but in battle. This will have to be repeated and more conclusively than last time. But in this total war of men and materials there is in each of the two camps a permanent competition for strategic resources among the armies, war industries, and food production. Food shortages have again started to weaken the home front; they are forcing the Nazis to divert increasing numbers to the policing of a desperate continent. As those tendencies become stronger, food will act as a powerful weapon in hastening Hitler's defeat."--Fortune Magazine, Jan. 1943: "Hunger Spreads Over Europe."

Nearly 15% of Our 1943 Food Supply Will Go To Our Allies

"The army must eat and it eats exceedingly well. The civilian who next year must cut down on his beefsteak or his bacon or his coffee can take comfort and pride in the knowledge that his is the best-fed Army in the world.***

"Our Allies must eat and nearly 15 percent of our 1943 food supply will go to them.***

"At present the British receive about as much as the shipping situation permits them to take. Leslie Wheeler, director of Foreign Agricultural Relations, rated by his foreign colleagues as one of the world's shrewdest and ablest trade negotiators, states that the Russians also got all they chose to pick up with their ships in accordance with the terms of last year's protocol and even extra amounts of vegetable seeds. He believes that Stalin's recent complaint about Allied aid was not directed toward food."--Fortune Magazine, Dec. 1942: "Food: What We Shall Get in '43."

Germany's Staying Power Depends on Food

"The crux of German staying power lies in the food situation. Hitler entered the war with a grain reserve of 12,500,000 tons. He seized substantial grain stocks in Holland and France. Germany's 1940 crop was 24,600,000 tons, slightly better than that year's consumption. With 1941, however, a decline set in. One result of the Balkan campaign was the loss of a great part of Yugoslavia's production, on which Nazi war economy had counted heavily. The temporary loss of Bessarabia to the Russians and the drain of Rumanian agricultural manpower for the Russian campaign had additional effects. In 1942, because of the severe and enduring winter, crops in Germany controlled Europe fell 22 percent below par. During this winter the Nazi will have to fall back on their stock pile, but there is enough to see them through. A similar situation prevails in other food staples."--By Wythe Williams and William van Narvig in December 1942 Reader's Digest, Condensed from The Rotarian: "Goebbels Will Fool Us Again--If We Don't Watch Out."

Each German Army Consumes 100 Head of Slaughtered Livestock a Day

"...By the time the Russian war began, Germany was already, actually, scraping the bottom of Europe's economic bin.***That Hitler's armies should eventually have to suck at the bung-holes of their last, long-spared reservoir--Germany itself--was inevitable. Take the prime example of meat. Once, when I was writing a feature for one of my broadcasts on how such a gigantic aggregation of men as an army is supplied, the Propaganda Ministry prepared a little hand-out for me in which it was stated that a single army consumes in a single day 100 head of slaughtered livestock.

"In view of the source and the nature of the information, the figure can be accepted as reliable. Now, a conservative estimate of the number of German armies operating on the eastern front is twenty. There are probably, in reality, half as many more. But even on this estimate this means a drain on livestock supplies as high as 2,000 head each day for the Russian campaign, mainly from Germany's own stock."-----By Howard K. Smith, CBS War Correspondent, PM, Jan. 7, 1943.

Starvation Diet in France

"Food: Here is a daily ration of an adult Frenchman today:

"About 3/4 pound of bad quality bread.

"A handful of dried peas or beans.

"About the same quantity of spaghetti, noodles, macaroni, etc.

"Two teaspoons of sugar.

"A piece of meat not much larger than a silver dollar.

"Enough cheese for a mousetrap.

"A tiny scrap of butter or else some vegetable oil.

"A microscopic amount of ersatz coffee.

"Sometimes potatoes are available and occasionally fresh fruits and vegetables.***

"...Just to keep alive, lying perfectly still all 24 hours, a man needs 1,250 calories daily. The Frenchman's current food allowance falls short of this impractical minimum by more than 100 calories. Literally this is a starvation diet.

"This condition is not confined to France alone. In Greece, in Poland, Belgium, Spain, and parts of Yugoslavia and Nazi-occupied Russia, the people are starving, too.

"Food is inadequate but not dangerously lacking in the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Protectorate of Bohemia, and Moravia, and probably Rumania and Slovakia."--By Gordon H. Cole in PM, Dec. 20, 1942, condensed from report of National Planning Association.

An Athens, Greece, Menu

"In Athens today a good menu consists of a breakfast of herbs and tea and a slice of dry bread; a luncheon of weeds from the garden, cooked in a few drops of oil, if one is lucky enough to get it; a dinner of vegetable soup, thickened with a teaspoonful of wheat flour, and a fig or a couple of olives for dessert. Dogs, cats, and rats are the only meats to be found; three pounds of donkey meat, which tastes like kitchen soap, costs \$10."--From Vogue, reprinted in December 1942 Reader's Digest.

Efficiency and Stamina Depend on Food

"During these days of stress the health problems of the military and civilian population are inseparable. Total defense demands man power. The full energy of every American is necessary. Medical authorities recognize completely that efficiency and stamina depend on proper food. Fighting men of our Armed Forces, workers in industry, the families of these workers, every man and woman in America, must have nourishing food. If people are undernourished, they cannot be efficient in producing what we need in our unified drive for dynamic strength."--President Roosevelt in letter to Paul V. McNutt, read before National Nutrition Conference for Defense, Washington, D. C., May 26, 1941.

Food is Power

"In Washington there are some persons outside Agriculture who are saying privately that we ought to cut down on some of this food production and put the extra manpower elsewhere. These persons have gotten way off the track. They fail to understand the simple truth that food is power. They don't realize that the food-power of the United States is every bit as important to the United Nations as our manpower or our machine-power.***

"In manpower, the United Nations outnumber the Axis 6 to 1. The British Empire has a population of 500 million, China 460 million, Russia, 190 million, the United States 134 million, and other American nations at war 70 million. Against this total of one billion, 350 million, the three Axis countries have only about 225 million. So there are 6 people on our side for every 1 on the enemy side.

"Please take note--I'm not saying that our manpower isn't needed--or our machines. What I am saying is that all this man and machine power doesn't do any good without food."--Fred S. Wallace before Kansas Farm Bureau Federation, Wichita, Kansas., Nov. 5, 1942: "Food Power Means Victory."

Food Stiffens The Will To Win

"The will to do, the will to offer resistance to threats from abroad and destructive propaganda at home, endurance, determination, courage--these qualities are weakened when foods fail to carry with them***the vitamins which activate human energies as spark plugs activate machines."--From an address, "Improved Nutrition, An Urgent Need for National Defense," by Dr. Russell M. Wilder, before National Nutrition Conference for Defense, May 26-28, 1941, Washington, D. C.

Changing Despair to Hope

"The United States turned the Axis to shame and courted French and native civilian cooperation in North Africa with kindness--in the form of 'many thousands of tons of American consumer goods.' including scarcities such as sugar, gasoline and oil--the War Department disclosed yesterday.

"Spokesmen said the same humanitarian plan of aid-as-you-go will be part and parcel of the program of American invasion forces as they push forward to other points on their schedule for the war's conclusion.***

"The Department contrasted the mercy methods employed by the Americans with popular Axis practice of placing civilians of occupied countries under systematic starvation and enforced slave labor, and said the American policy 'changed despair to hope among the North African population.'"--By Francis J. Conner, Washington Post, Jan. 1. 1943.

Pass The Proteins; Up Goes Production

"I talked to one of the leaders of the cabinet (British) who frankly said, 'A lot of our people look as though they are in good shape. They are, but they don't have the vitality or staying power. Give us the proteins and meat and we will increase our production 15 or 20 percent just like that.' And I don't need to add that the 15 or 20 percent he spoke about might mean the difference between defeat and victory.***

"Yes, this talk about nutrition is as sound as it is important today. When I was in England I was talking to an American research doctor there, and he said, 'Have you noticed the number of little bandages on people in the streets? That's because they are lacking the vitamins in their blood, and whenever they scratch themselves, it doesn't heal very rapidly.'"--R. M. Evans in radio address at Schenectady, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1941.

Double-Edged Weapon

"This is a war in which every man, woman, and child must be alert, physically tough, strong in character. Planes, battleships, natural resources, industrial plants mean little without human fitness to match--superb health, geared up to its highest potential by the right food. Courage and the cool head in battle, efficiency on the production line, civilian morals--all hinge on food; not on just eating enough, but on eating enough of the best life-giving food. The Nazis have even demonstrated that right and wrong diet can be used as a double-edged weapon, both to sustain the will to victory of their own people and to paralyze the will of the conquered. Never has it been so clear that food is power."--Fortune Magazine, August 1941: "Food is also Power."

20 Million Meals A Day

"Last June Major Gwilym Lloyd George announced in Parliament that every week 135 million meals--almost 20 million meals a day--were served to Britain's 46 million inhabitants."--Fortune Magazine, Jan. 1943.

Food To the Starving

"When the curse of the Nazi mailed fist is at last removed from the stricken countries overseas, the first and most pressing need will be action to bring food to the starving and the undernourished. For this purpose the accumulated surplus stocks of wheat and the increased production of other foods for which farmers are now pushing will be enormously helpful."--Vice-President Wallace in Atlantic Monthly, January, 1942: "Foundation of the Peace."

Food Ministries Most Important

"The World War taught us that no nation is prepared for war or defense unless it has looked after its food supplies. The food ministries in the warring nations today are most important. The reason is plain. In terms of world history the record of mankind has been a constant struggle against starvation."--M. L. Wilson, Director, Extension, and Chairman, National Advisory Committee on Nutrition, before National Dairy Council, Richmond, Va., March 6, 1941: "The Nutrition Program and Defense."

Hunger Brings Despair

"From hunger comes despair, which engenders disorder and which ends in the pillaging of the land. Whatever is the outcome of the present conflict, the country which feeds its people and lives in patient waiting for better hours, is the country which is sure of rehabilitation.***" -- Admiral Darlan, Vichy, April 8, 1942 (C.T.B.S.); Washington Times-Herald, April 9, 1942.

Hunger Doomed Bataan and Philippines

"Out on Bataan last spring our soldiers fought a battle that was decided not by men or guns, but by food and medicine. Hunger and malaria cost us the Philippines--and when the Philippines went, Sumatra, Java, part of New Guinea and the southwestern Pacific followed.

"Over in the British Isles, they depend on American farmers to supply the meat and cheese and eggs and milk, without which this war could have been lost many months ago.

"In Russia, with the Ukraine and other food areas gone, our food can do fully as much as our other weapons to keep Hitler at bay.

"In China and elsewhere the story is the same."--M. Clifford Townsend, before Thanksgiving Harvest Observance Meeting at Carrollton, Ga., Nov. 23, 1942: "Thanks for Food."

Hunger Can Tyrannize Emotions and Intellect

"On Armistice Day there will be one universal preoccupation among the peoples of Europe.

"How can I get something to eat?***

"No one who has not experienced chronic short rations can even faintly imagine how hunger can tyrannize over the emotions and the intellect.***The imagination, waking and sleeping, perpetually pictures chocolate bars and greasy pork chops. Without a definite effort of the will one can think of nothing else. More than the physical exasperation, it is the spiritual humiliation caused by this persistent craving for animal satisfaction that degrades underfed men. Expect no reasonable political behavior from men and women who have been living for years on quarter-belly rations.

"Most of Europe from Armistice Day on will be suffering a hunger neurosis which will induce mass hallucinations and impulses quite outside rational calculation. The spellbinder who can picture a loaf of white bread and tie it up in imagination with a political theory can manufacture thereby a mob with murder in its eyes."--By Hiram Motherwell, Harpers, Dec. 1942: "Hunger, Hatred and Postwar Europe."

Greatest Vitamin Factory Is The Farm

"Vitamin A has a war nickname--the blackout vitamin. This vitamin is needed for normal eyesight in dim light...it is important to air pilots...to fighting men...to people in darkened places."***

"Vitamin B1, or thiamine, nicknamed the morale vitamin, helps steady nerves...helps you to keep cheerful--with a stiff upper lip."

"You need vitamins. Everyone does--young and old. You need them for building a healthy body and for keeping fit and strong. Vitamins are especially important in a period of stress and strain.***The greatest vitamin factory on earth is a farm, for vitamins come to you from plants, animals, and sunshine." -- From "Vitamins from Farm to You", USDA leaflet, AWI-2.

Food Our Fifth Column

"What do you think is the effect upon these people looking across the channel from half-fed France or Holland and seeing the British still getting enough to eat? I think the effect is the equivalent of about 10 field armies. Food is our fifth column." -- Secretary Wickard at Salt Lake City, Utah, September 13, 1941: "We Must Produce Plenty."

Ambassador At Peace Table

"Today it (food) is helping to direct the course of battle; tomorrow it may be an ambassador, plenipotentiary, at the peace table." -- Howard R. Tolley, in The New Republic, July 27, 1942: "Food Is a Weapon."

Children Kept in Bed to Prevent Further Loss of Weight

"Investigations at the end of 1941 by Dr. Raoul Duthoit, head of the Medical Department of Public Assistance in Brussels (Belgium), into the condition of boys and girls up to the age of 14 and girls in their teens, showed that the growth of infants under one year was below normal. In other groups, cases were recorded of children on the verge of starvation being kept in bed in the hope that they might not lose weight."--In News From Belgium, Nov. 28, 1942.

Emaciation, A Badge of Honor

"In an occupied country where adult workers are limited to 1,400 calories worth of food a day, or about 1,000 less than health requires, Oasis (a businessmen's luncheon club founded in Belgium) members consider emaciation a badge of honor. New recruits may weigh no more than 121 pounds stripped and must promise to grow no fatter until the last German has been booted off Belgian soil. The club currently numbers 132. It meets once a month for a checkup and a meal. The bill of fare***lists two sardines, one boiled bean, one slice of potato, six raisins and water in unlimited quantity." John Kobler, in The Saturday Evening Post, Jan. 16, 1943: "Needle in the Nazis."

The Cruelty of Purposefully Starving Human Beings To Death

"...And to my simple mind, purposefully starving human beings to death on a grand scale is far more cruel, though perhaps less dramatic, than subjecting small numbers of them to more acute pain and indignity.***

"During the first three months of internment the daily ration was not more than two small bowls of rice and two small cups of a sort of thin gruel made with the meat and vegetables. The doctors in the camp checked the ration daily, and their carefully computed figures showed that each internee was getting about 1,000 calories of food per day. Even if the food had been all health-giving meats and vegetables, instead of soggy, second-grade rice, wetted with gruel, the quantity would have insured ultimate starvation.

"Under the circumstances, food obsessed us all nearly to the point of insanity. Some individuals did, in fact, go temporarily mad. There was, for instance, the faded, carefully genteel woman whose husband's beriberi was so severe that the camp council set aside for him the kidneys of the ration buffaloes. The woman had always been a model wife, yet after a couple of months it was found that the kidneys which were issued to her to take to the camp hospital were not reaching her husband. She was eating them, raw, in her room." Joseph Alsop in The Saturday Evening Post, Jan. 16, 1943: "Starvation is Torture Too." The author was released from Japanese prison and returned to the United States in an exchange of prisoners last year.

Food Deliveries During the Armistice and Reconstruction Periods of World War*

(Metric tons)

	<u>Armistice period</u>	<u>Reconstruction period</u>	
Flour	1,253,568.0	767,191.5	
Grain	983,979.6	389,007.1	
Rice	99,039.1	49,811.0	
Beans and peas	104,833.6	45,796.5	
Corn grits		103,301.1	
Pork Products	266,979.6	29,594.8	
Milk	50,653.7	103,612.1	
Cocoa	511.5	10,762.6	
Sugar	43,276.7	44,295.7	
Misc. food	873,062.2	4,076.0	
	<u>3,675,904.0</u>	<u>1,547,448.4</u>	Grand total 5,223,352.4

Excerpts from Table 2 in "American Food In the World War and Reconstruction Period," by Frank M. Surface and Raymond L. Bland, Stanford University Press, 1931.

*Armistice Period, Nov. 1918 to Sept. 1919: Reconstruction Period, 1919 to 1924.

Other Sources

1. U. S. Farm Crops And the War--Issued by AAA Div. of Information, June 15, 1942 (Revised). This is a compilation of pertinent facts about the parts that food and fiber are playing in the war.
2. Food for Freedom Information Handbook--1943. Information materials and references in support of the 1943 Food for Freedom Program.
3. 1943 Goals Dramatized, with conservation factors. INFORMATION Series No. 112
4. Food for Freedom and Crops for Combat in More Food for Freedom (Editors Kit--winter, spring, 1943).

